COMIC SHOP NEWS™

SHERLOCK HOLMES YEAR ONE

SERIES 6 & 7 IN STORES NOVEMBER 2010
SERIES 8 IN STORES DECEMBER 2010

ORDER YOURS TODAY!

FOR PRODUCT INFO AND MORE, GO TO DCDIRECTONLINE.COM. • VISIT COMICSHOPLOCATOR.COM OR CALL 1-888-COMIC-BOOK.

Green Lantern and all related characters and elements are trademarks and © DC COMICS. All rights reserved.

Products may vary from images shown.

6/10

DC Direct

Authentic Collectibles
Direct from the Source!

Starter Holmes

If there's any character who epitomizes the masterful detective, it's *Arthur Conan Doyle's* Sherlock Holmes. For more than a century now, readers have witnessed the inscrutable sleuth as he used his powers of deduction to solve a variety of cases.

But how did Sherlock Holmes become a master of observation and deductive reasoning? What attracted Holmes to the art of detection? Those questions will be answered by writer *Scott Beatty* in the upcoming Dynamite limited series ***Sherlock Holmes: Year One.***

After a successful ***Sherlock Holmes*** series focusing on the detective in his prime, why did Dynamite choose to look backwards to Holmes' first case? "Why not?" Dynamite publisher *Nick Barrucci* replied. "Seriously, many tales are told of Sherlock Holmes' different cases once he's become the Sherlock Holmes we know, and they've been great tales. But we decided why not go with a 'year one' approach; why not see his early days, why not take it to that level? How cocky was he before he became smart? What are the ramifications of his actions? What does he learn? There is some back story there, and we want to fill it in."

Dynamite's initial ***Sherlock Holmes*** project was written by *Leah Moore & John Reppion.* What led to the decision to enlist *Scott Beatty* for the ***Year One*** project? "Quite candidly, Leah and John have got a lot on their plate, which is good for them, but bad for us as they are not doing as much for us," Barrucci said. "They *are* writing another Sherlock Holmes story that will be solicited down the line. And Scott was the right person to do ***Year One***; he knows his Holmes, and he's making it a great story.

"Of course, Leah and John do a great job, and the door is open to them—we want them to write as many stories as possible. Their focus is to continue what they started with their first Sherlock Holmes story. But Scott is doing something very different with ***Year One,*** which, as I said, is a tale we feel is worth telling."

In their solicitation for the book, Dynamite describes a "young Sherlock Holmes." Just how young are Holmes and Watson in this series? "Let's say 'young-ish,'" *Scott Beatty* said. "Holmes is post-graduate. Watson is already a doctor and has just returned from the Battle of Maiwand with the injuries that ended his military service. ***Sherlock Holmes Year One*** begins in late 1880.

"Here's the gist of the story, without giving too much away: Following a case involving a plot to burgle London's rich and famous, Holmes and Watson are reluctantly paired to solve—and stop—a string of serial murders that have confounded the city's constabulary."

As ***Sherlock Holmes Year One*** begins, the two are not partners in crimefighting. "They know each other by reputation—Holmes more than Watson—but the first issue is their initial meeting. Watson, as expected, is the series' narrator, and the story is as much his exploration of the 'Mystery of Sherlock Holmes' as it is the overarcing murder plot." Other members of Holmes' supporting cat will also play a role in the story, "but like Holmes and Watson, they're earlier iterations of themselves."

Is Beatty utilizing any of the clues regarding Holmes' early years that Doyle dropped in various stories, or is this tale entirely Beatty's creation? "Consider it a new timeline, but one that considers the 'canon' of Holmes stories very important. There are 'easter eggs' throughout the series that establish where and when this takes place in relation to the well-worn tales."

There has been much discussion among Sherlockian circles regarding the exact year of Holmes' birth, as well as the years of his matriculation. Some insist that Holmes was born in 1854, while others (such as author *Laurie King)* see Holmes as having been born as late as 1861, which means he might have been a teenaged university student in 1880, at about the same time that Watson was wounded in the second Afghan War. So which does Beatty see as correct? "I think it's safe to say that Holmes was born between the dates you mention," Beatty said diplomatically. "Again, ***Year One*** begins in 1880. We see Holmes at university, although his student status is 'questionable.' Watson is working with the police. Their paths first cross when Watson examines Holmes for injuries sustained in a great fall...

"I think we can safely assume that ***Year One*** takes place in the interim between 'The Adventure of Gloria Scott' (considered Holmes' first real case) and 'Study in Scarlet,' the first 'official' teaming of Holmes and Watson."

Is Beatty including any real-world Victorian elements in the story—either events or people—that will help to place this in an appropriate time? "Well, we're a bit more down to Earth than the *Robert Downey Jr.* film," Beatty said. "Less *H.G. Wells* inspired steampunk sci-fi, and more old-fashioned murder mystery. Of course, the killings are decidedly 'complicated'..."

Was Beatty a Holmes aficionado prior to taking on this project? "Absolutely! You can't immerse yourself in a period project like this without having a real affection for Holmes and Watson, the *original* dynamic duo."

Will ***Sherlock Holmes Year One*** leave room for other early Holmes adventures, or is Beatty bringing readers to the point where Doyle's works take over? "***Year One*** allows for a bit of wiggle room to acknowledge the 'history' and also tell new stories," Beatty said. "It seems a little anachronistic using this analogy, but the most recent ***Star Trek*** reboot is a perfect example of allowing the 'canon' to remain canonical while allowing for new stories to reexamine the history or chart new directions for new audiences.

"I know exactly where ***Year One*** ends. Ideally, we'll all come back to revisit Holmes and Watson elsewhere in their partnership, whether it's 'new' adventures or chronicles of the classic stories."

Dynamite is currently publishing the adventures of two other famous fictional characters whose timelines could cross with Holmes: *Edgar Rice Burroughs'* John Carter (whose life on Earth in the 1880s, prior to returning to Barsoom, would make him a contemporary of Holmes), and *Lee Falk's* Phantom (since, according to the established canon, there was a Ghost Who Walks who was active at the same time Holmes lived). Any chance that Dynamite might bring either of those characters into Holmes' world at some point? "That's a great idea—and until you asked, we hadn't thought about it," Barrucci said. "Thanks for suggesting it! As to whether it happens or not—well, that will all be up to creative and if they think they can get a compelling story out of the concept. But I like the idea. If a good story comes about, we'll do it!"

So far, Dynamite has avoided adapting Doyle's tales in comics form; does Barrucci intend to continue with original Holmes adventures rather than adaptations? "For the foreseeable future, we're doing all-original tales," Barrucci said. "The adaptations that others are doing are fantastic, and they're nice to see—but they're tales that have been done over and over again. Why not create new tales, since we have creators who can tell them so well? We have fantastic story tellers and exceptional artists to execute these concept. What more can anyone ask for?"

Sherlock Holmes Year One #1, a $3.99 comic written by *Scott Beatty* and illustrated by *Daniel Indro* with covers by *Francesco Francavilla,* is slated for mid-January 2011 release. Dynamite will also offer limited incentive versions of the book, featuring variant cover art by *Francavilla* and by *J. Scott Campbell.* (For more information on price and availability of these incentives, as the folks at your friendly neighborhood comic shop!) To see more art, visit http://www.csnsider.com/spotlight.htm

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

Marvel: Getting to the Point!

Over the years, comics fans have dealt with reverse-numbered series, out-of-order series releases, zero issues, minus-one issues, one million issues, one-half issues... but Marvel offers something new beginning in February 2011, when they roll out their "Point One" initiative.

"Geared for new and long-time readers alike, the all-new Marvel: Point One initiative delivers the perfect jumping on points for the biggest super hero series in the world," Marvel said in describing the program. "Beginning in February 2011, select Marvel comic series marked with a ".1" after the issue number feature full-length, self-contained stories by Marvel's top creators, laying the groundwork for the next year of storylines. From ***Invincible Iron Man*** to ***Avengers*** to ***Amazing Spider-Man***, each Marvel: Point One issue of the associated series not only begin major new storylines, but also seamlessly introduces new readers into the dynamic Marvel Universe and its popular super heroes.

"Additionally, each issue bearing the Marvel: Point One branding will be followed in the same month by another issue of that series, delivering new fans another exciting installment of the series they enjoy.

The Point One initiative includes the following books:

February 2011

- *Amazing Spider-Man #654.1*
- *Invincible Iron Man #500.1*
- *Wolverine #5.1*

March 2011

- *Captain America #615.1*
- *Deadpool #32.1*
- *Hulk #30.1*
- *Thor #620.1*
- *Uncanny X-Force #5.1*

April 2011

- *Avengers #12.1*
- *Secret Avengers #11.1*
- *Uncanny X-Men #534.1*

"Marvel is absolutely committed to providing new readers with easy entry points into all our comic book series and Marvel: Point One is the next step in our new reader initiatives, *David Gabriel*, Senior Vice-President, Sales & Circulation, Marvel Entertainment, said. "And to make sure readers can sample all of Marvel's top series, we've priced every Marvel: Point One issue at $2.99. Utilizing our top characters, top creators and employing a huge marketing push, we expect a lot of new faces in comic stores nationwide to check out Marvel: Point One."

(This doesn't mark a permanent change to the $2.99 pricepoint for these titles, however—although Gabriel did hint that some other pricing announcements might be forthcoming in the near future.)

"I think that the key here is that the creators—especially the writers—understand the challenge to hook readers in one issue," Marvel editor *Axel Alonso* said. "They love the idea of the story as a told-in-one."

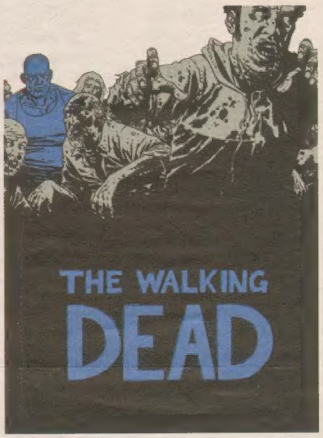
For readers who are wondering how the numbering is structured, here's an example, using ***Wolverine***. Marvel will release ***Wolverine #5*** in January, followed by ***Wolverine #5.1*** in February, and then ***Wolverine #6***. (Yes, those of you using indexing software can start figuring out now how to include these books in your checklists and databases!) The Point One issues will *not* ship on the same week as the whole-numbered issues, to minimize possible confusion; Marvel doesn't want to risk the possibility that readers might think these are just variant cover editions of already-published books.

"We've done these kind of things in the past, but more on an individual note," Marvel editor *Tom Brevoort* said, noting the 9-cent ***Fantastic Four*** and Marvel's ***Free Comic Book Day*** original books, "all featuring self-contained stories by our best guys... Our hope and expectation is that you'll want to come back less than a month later, when the next issue arrives in stores."

creating good jumping-on-points for new readers," series creator and writer *Robert Kirkman* said. "And what better way to jump on than with the very first issue? Making this series available in single issue form will make it easier for new fans to jump on board and for old fans to fill in any gaps in their collection."

Each 32-page black-and-white comic will be priced at $2.99; look for the run to kick off with ***The Walking Dead Weekly #1*** on January 5th, 2011.

And for those readers who prefer their ***Walking Dead*** in heftier packages, Image is also offering the slipcased oversized hardcover ***The Walking Dead Omnibus Volume 3***, collecting ***The Walking Dead #s 49-72*** in a strictly limited 3000-copy print run.



The Dead Walk Every Week in 2011

Apparently the dead know the secret to career success!

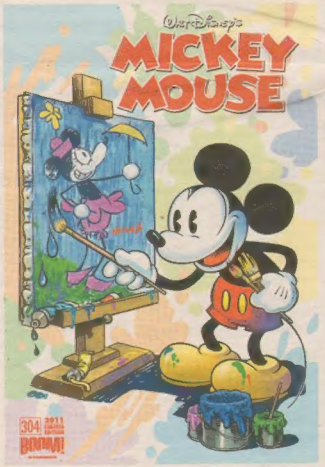
As if a regular comic book series, a trade paperback run, a half-dozen hardcovers, a hefty compendium, and a hit AMC television series wasn't enough, ***The Walking Dead*** is about the make a weekly foray into comic shops! Beginning in January, Image Comics will reprint the single issues of *Robert Kirkman's* hit series, shipping one issue per week all year long.

"Keeping a series like this going year after year is all about

Classics Very Well Illustrated

Thus far, Boom has presented a variety of unpublished-in-the-US tales in their ***Walt Disney's Comics & Stories*** and ***Mickey Mouse*** series—but that changes in 2011

To commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the first issue of ***Walt Disney's***



SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

AS SPIDER-MAN TRIES TO REACH MJ AND AUNT MAY...
I'LL GET TO THEM--IF I HAVE TO DIG TO THE EARTH'S CORE!
©2010 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

BUT THE MOLE MAN ISN'T WORRIED...
THAT WEB-SPINNER WILL NEVER OVERTAKE US--
--BEFORE I WED MY BEAUTIFUL BRIDE!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 11-8

COMIC SHOP NEWS
Published weekly since 1987 by Comic Shop News, Inc.
©2010 Comic Shop News, Inc. All Rights Reserved

EDITORS
Cliff Biggers
Ward Batty

Editorial Office
2770 Carillon Crossing
Marietta, GA 30066
cliffbig@comicshopnews.com

Business Office
3577-A Chamblee-Tucker Rd. #215
Atlanta, GA 30341
(770) 939-1364
wbatty@csnsider.com

www.csnsider.com
twitter.com/csnsider

Comics & Stories, way back in the early days of the Golden Age, Boom is featuring a selection of classic material in ***Walt Disney's Comics & Stories #715*** and ***Mickey Mouse #304***. This new classics-oriented initiative is the next stage of "Boom Kids! 2.0," which Boom first mentioned at the New York Comic Con.

Walt Disney's Comics & Stories #715 will include:

•"Life Savers," a *Carl Barks*-written story from 1969 newly illustrated by Dutch master *Daan Jippes* in the Barks style and starring the Junior Woodchucks – published for the first time in the U.S.!

•Writer *Ruud Straatman* and American master artist *Don Rosa*'s Daisy Duck story "Forget Me Not" from 1989.

•"70th Heaven!" by Dutch master artist *Daan Jippes* in its American publishing debut.

•An untitled Li'l Bad Wolf/Donald Duck tale by *Gill Turner* in its first appearance since 1950!

Mickey Mouse #304 will include:

•*The Bill Walsh/ Floyd Gottfredson* tale "The Pirate Ghost Ship!" marking its first reprint with every single panel complete since 1944.

•Legendary ***Mickey Mouse*** artist *Floyd Gottfredson's* "Laundry Blues" from 1932 in its first re-printing ever!

•A Goofy tale, "Don't Worry About It," by Italian master *Romano Scarpa*, printed for the first time in English!

Each $3.99 comic is slated for January release. And this marks the beginning of a new direction for both titles, as Boom will continue to feature classic stories in both titles thereafter.

Lulu Winners Announced

Each year, The Lulu Awards are presented to recognize the most female-friendly and reader-friendly works in comics and to recognize the contributions of female comics creators. The winners of the 2010 Lulu Awards (which were presented at the Long Beach Comic Con in late October) include:

•**Leah Adezio Award for Best Kid-Friendly Work**: *Diana Nock*, ***The Intrepid Girlbot***

•**Best Female Character**: Ramona Flowers from ***Scott Pilgrim*** by *Bryan Lee O'Malley*

•**Kim Yale Award for Most Talented Newcomer**: *Kathryn Immonen*, ***The Runaways***

•**Lulu of the Year**: *Kate Beaton*

•**Woman of Distinction Award**: *Lauren Sankovitch*, editor, Marvel Comics

•**Female Cartoonists Hall of Fame**: *Alison Bechdel*

CSNsider

•***Batwoman #0***, a prelude issue by *J.H. Williams III, Haden Blackman, & Amy Reeder* that acts as an introduction the upcoming monthly series, is another addition to DC's #2.99 comics initiative. The book was initially priced at $3.99, but DC is lowering the price by $1 to encourage more readers to sample the issue, which features an original story that picks up roughly where the ***Batwoman: Elegy HC*** left off. Look for it in stores next week!

•***Twilight Guardian***, one of the winners in Top Cow's 2008 Pilot Season event, is returning to comic shops in early 2011 in a four-issue series written by *Troy Hickman* and illustrated by *Siddharth Kotian*. The series focuses on a lone, dedicated hero patrolling her nine block suburban neighborhood; the four-issue limited series will delve into Twilight Guardian's past, her motivations for crime fighting, and even give her an arch-nemesis in the terrifying Dusk Devil!

•Avatar continues their trade paperback series collecting *Warren Ellis's* award-winning webcomic with ***FreakAngels Volume 5***, a 144-page full-color collection that follows eleven strange 23-year-olds living in and defending Whitechapel, which just may be the last real settlement in flooded London. It turns out that not only is everything you thought you knew about the 'Angels wrong, but everything that the 'Angels thought they knew about themselves may be wrong, too!

•First there was a Preview issue, then a zero issue—but at last, Boundless Comics is offering ***Lady Death #1*** in January as Lady Death's quest to recover the fragments of her mysterious past—and her otherworldly powers—begins, courtesy of co-writers *Brian Pulido & Mike Wolfer* and artist *Marcelo Mueller*.

•You've asked for them, and writer/artist *John Kovalic* has listened to your pleas! In January, ***The Collected Dork Tower Volumes 1, 2, & 3*** return to print for the first time in far, far too long. Grab 'em while you have a chance though—no telling how long this print run will last, considering how many fans of Kovalic's online strips have been eagerly awaiting a new printing of these collections!

•The folks at Fantagraphics set out to prove that *Ernie Bushmiller's* ***Nancy*** doesn't deserve its reputation as the stodgiest, squarest comic strip in the world—and to prove their point (and entertain fans of classic comic strips), they're releasing ***Nancy Is Happy—The Complete Dailies 1942-1945***, the first in a series of comprehensive reprintings of the classic strip. The kickoff volume will feature an introduction by Bushmiller aficionado *Daniel Clowes*, a biography of the artist, and more.

•In the past, Hero Initiative has offered all-star art compendiums featuring cover art for such landmark books as ***Ultimate Spider-Man #100***. In January, they're turning their attention to ***Archie #600***, featuring exclusive original covers for the landmark issue. Inside, you'll find work by *Stan Goldberg, Sam Kieth, Joseph Michael Linsner, Jerry Ordway, George Pérez, John Romita Sr., Bill Sienkiewicz*, and others—and all profits from this project go to support Hero Initiative's programs to assist veteran comics creators who worked for decades with no pensions or retirement programs.

Eagle Winners Announced

The Eagle Award winnters were announced in late October at the MCM Expo in London. The awards, which have been given since 1977 and thus are the oldest continuously-presented comics awards, were selected by comics readers in recognition of outstanding work published in 2009. This year's winners (complete with UK category spellings) include:

•**Roll of Honour**: *Brian Bolland*

•**Favourite Newcomer Writer**: *Jonathan Hickman*

•**Favourite Newcomer Artist**: *Jamie McKelvie*

•**Favourite Writer**: *Warren Ellis*

•**Favourite Writer/Artist**: *Darwyn Cooke*

•**Favourite Artist—Pencils**: *Frank Quitely*

•**Favourite Artist—Inks**: *Kevin O'Neill*

•**Favourite Artist—Fully-Painted Artwork**: *J.H. Williams III*

•**Favourite Colourist** – *Ben Templesmith*

•**Favourite Letterer** – *Todd Klein*

•**Favourite Editor** – *Axel Alonso*

•**Favourite Publisher** – DC/Vertigo

•**Favourite American Comicbook—Colour**: ***Batman & Robin***

•**Favourite British Comicbook—Colour**: ***2000 AD***

•**Favourite American Comicbook—Black and White**: ***The Walking Dead***

•**Favourite New Comic Book**: ***Batman & Robin***

•**Favourite Manga**: ***Fullmetal Alchemist***

•**Favourite European Comic Book**: ***Requiem Chevalier Vampire***

•Favourite 2009 Single Story: ***Phonogram—The Singles Club*** #4, "Konichiwa Bitches"

Favourite 2009 Continued Story: ***The Walking Dead #s 61-65***, "Fear The Hunters"

•**Favourite 2009 Cover**: ***Batman & Robin #4***

•**Favourite 2009 Original Graphic Novel**: ***The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen: Century***

•**Favourite 2009 Reprint Compilation**: ***Captain Britain Omnibus by Alan Moore & Alan Davis***

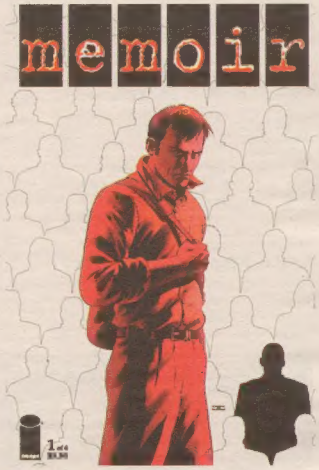
•**Favourite Magazine about Comics**: ***Wizard***

•**Favourite Comics-Related Book**: ***The Insider's Guide to Creating Comics and Graphic Novels*** by *Andy Schmidt*

•**Favourite Comics-Related Movie or TV Show**: ***Watchmen***

•**Favourite Comics-Related Website**: comicbookresources.com

•**Favourite Web-Based Comic**: ***Freak Angels***



I Forgot to Remember to Forget

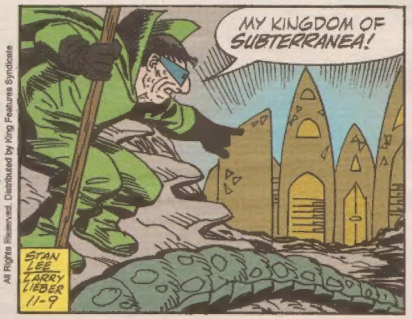
Amnesia is a common plot twist in literature, film, television, and comics—but usually it's just one person who blanks out mentally. But what happens when everyone in an entire town wakes up with no memory of who they are, where they are, or what's happened to them?

In ***Memoir***, *Ben McCool* deals with the town of Lowesville, where everyone has forgotten... everyone except one man, that is. He remembers *everything*...

"***Memoir*** is a mysterious match up of ***Twin Peaks*** and the ***Twilight Zone***, featuring a town devoid of memory, an eager journalist looking to exploit it, and a strange young girl watching over everything—a young girl who claims to be the daughter of God," McCool said. "There'll be plenty of twists and turns as the truth behind Lowesville's surreptitious past is revealed..."

Memoir #1, the kickoff issue of a six-part limited series, is slated for mid-January release.

DON'T WORRY, AUNT MAY. SPIDER-MAN WILL RESCUE US.
I DOUBT WE'D NEED A SUPERHERO, DEAR, WHILE WE'RE WITH A GENTLEMAN LIKE THE MOLE MAN.
HERE WE ARE, DEAR LADIES...
©2010 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate



BATMAN INC. #2

Grant Morrison (W); Yanick Paquette & Michael LaCombe (A)

(DC OCT100172 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The dynamic new era of Batman continues! The Dark Knight and Mr. Unknown - the Batman of Japan - go up against Lord Death Man in a battle that could shut down the Batman, Inc., plan before it really begins!

Why Should You Care?

Grant Morrison continues to redirect the bat-franchise in this series that offers a 21st century renovation of the 1950s-era Bat-analogs—and it introduces some new Batmen for good measure!

BATMAN: THE DARK KNIGHT #2

David Finch (W/A)

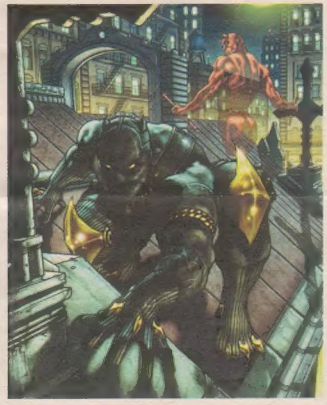
(DC OCT100174 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Batman's efforts to fid his friend Dawn Golden pit him against the Penguin... but what he finds leads him to the doorstep of Etrigan, the Demon, in search of a favor!

Why Should You Care?

David Finch, superstar artist, adds "high profile writer" to his resume with this all-new Bat-series that explores some of the darker corners of Batman's world.



BLACK PANTHER: MAN WITHOUT FEAR #513

David Liss (W); Francesco Francavilla (A)

(Marvel OCT100586 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

In the wake of ***Shadowland***, there's a new protector of Hell's Kitchen. His name is T'Challa, and he's ready to take Matt Murdock's place as the city's fearless defender.

Why Should You Care?

Marvel has enlisted Edgar Award winner *David Liss* to launch a new chapter in the history of Daredevil... and the Black Panther.

BRING THE THUNDER #1

Alex Ross & Jai Nitz (W); Wilson Tortosa (A)

(Dynamite OCT100931 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

When the leader of an elite Air Force team is ambushed and mortally wounded, he unleashes an experimental weapon that will change his life—and warfare—forever.

Why Should You Care?

Fan favorite *Alex Ross* is the creator, designer, and cover artist of this high-concept adventure-hero series—and this is an all-original creation, which is sure to hook Ross's many fans.

CONAN: THE ROAD OF KINGS #1 (OF 6)

Roy Thomas (W); Mike Hawthorne (A)

(Dark Horse OCT100023 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

When the beautiful Olivia speaks of prophetic dreams and king's fortunes, Conan leads his pirate crew straight to the Road of Kings...

Why Should You Care?

At long last, Conan's first comic book scribe, *Roy Thomas*, returns to the barbarian hero he helped make famous.

ECHOES #1 (OF 5)

Joshua Hale Fialkov (W); Rahsan Ekedal (A)

(Top Cow/Image OCT100545 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Brian Cohn, a diagnosed schizophrenic leading a simple, uncomplicated life, finds his world turned upside down when his dying father confesses to being a serial killer. Now Brian is left wondering if we ever really escape familial legacies...

Why Should You Care?

Top Cow relaunches its innovative and sophisticated Minotaur imprint with this suspense-thriller created by acclaimed screenwriter and comics author *Joshua Hale Fialkov.*

FLASH #8 (BRIGHTEST DAY)

Geoff Johns (W); Francis Manapul (A)

(DC SEP100206 $2.99)

FLASH #9 (FLASHPOINT)

Geoff Johns (W); Francis Manapul (A)

(DC OCT100224 $2.9)

What's the Scoop?

There's a new speedster in the DC Universe: Hot Pursuit. His mission is to make sure that no one breaks the speed limit—hero or villain. And his presence will impact the lives of Wally West, Kid Flash, Barry Allen and the rest of the Speed Force.

CSN TOP COMI

Why Should You Care?

The arrival of Hot Pursuit is the precursor to ***FlashPoint***, 2011's major Flash event. *Geoff Johns*... major DC events... sounds familiar, doesn't it? And we all remember how hot his *last* major DC event was, don't we?...

GREEN LANTERN: LARFLEEZE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL #1

Geoff Johns (W); Brett Booth (A)

(DC OCT100216 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Larfleeze, the Orange Lantern who wants *everything*, embraces the Christmas holiday... in particular, its emphasis on gifts. He even wants the ultimate gift: Santa Claus himself!

Why Should You Care?

One of the most popular additions to the Lantern cast gets his own oneshot courtesy of superstar writer (and Larfleeze creator) *Geoff Johns.*

GRIM GHOST #0

Joshua Ortega (W); Qing Ping Mui (A)

(Atlas/Ardden OCT100792 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

A former highwayman dispatched by Satan to bring evil souls to hell returns to comics in this 21st century revamp of the 1970s series.

Why Should You Care?

Atlas Comics returns with this special zero issue that paves the way for the first of many relaunches of characters first published by *Martin Goodman's* all-too-short-lived post-Marvel comics company.

HEROES FOR HIRE #1

Dan Abnett & Andy Lanning (W); Brad Walker (A)

(Marvel OCT100588 $3.99)

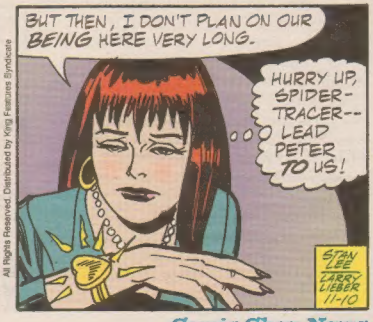
What's the Scoop?

In the aftermath of ***Shadowland***, Marvel's street heroes—the Punisher, Moon Knight, Shroud, Elektra, Paladin, Silver Sable, Ghost Rider, Iron Fist, Falcon, Misty Knight and more—unite in this all-new team series. But who has managed to unite these dangerous loners into one fighting force?

Why Should You Care?

How do you make a team out of so many characters who don't traditionally play well with others? *Dan Abnett & Andy Lanning* have the answers, and they're sharing them with you in this revamped ***Heroes for Hire*** relaunch.

©2010 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate



CS: DECEMBER

JOHN BYRNE'S NEXT MEN #1

John Byrne (W/A)
(IDW OCT100367 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The survivors of Project Next Men attempt to move on with their lives—but standing in their way are new foes in a tale that twists time itself.

Why Should You Care?

Next Men remains one of *John Byrne's* most popular creations. Ever since IDW collected the original series, fans have clamored for a continuation of the saga—and at last, here it is!

LEGION OF SUPER HEROES ANNUAL #1

Paul Levitz (W); Keith Giffen (A)
(DC OCT100239 $4.99)

What's the Scoop?

Meet the all-new, all-deadly Emerald Empress, a femme fatale with the power to possess entire planets... and one Legionnaire is about to fall victim to her power.

Why Should You Care?

The addition of a revamped villain to the Legion's enemies list is overshadowed the first teaming in twenty years of *Legion* superstars *Paul Levitz & Keith Giffen*, masterminds of *The Great Darkness Saga*.

MARINEMAN #1

Ian Churchill (W/A)
(Image OCT100442 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Steve Ocean, marine biologist and TV star, has it all—good looks, a great job, an enviable career, caring friends. But he also has a secret that, if revealed, could turn his life upside down...

Why Should You Care?

Superstar artist *Ian Churchill* introduces a contemporary take on his childhood superhero creation in this original series.

MICE TEMPLAR VOL 3 #1

Bryan J.L. Glass (W); Michael Avon Oeming (A)
(Image OCT100446 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

One heroic mouse lies comatose as a result of his own selfless sacrifice. Another risks all for the hero who restored his faith. Meanwhile, rat assassins stand ready to attack as the rat army readies a retaliatory strike in the third chapter of the award-winning anthropomorphic fantasy series.

Why Should You Care?

Apparently fans just love these meeses to pieces!

MIGHTY SAMSON #1

Jim Shooter (W); Patrick Olliffe (A)
(Dark Horse OCT100030 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

In a post-apocalyptic New York five hundred years after the holocaust, a lone warrior of incredible strength rises to lead his people from a life of suffering, fear, and privation.

Why Should You Care?

Jim Shooter, whose relaunch of *Magnus* and *Solar* have been the highlights of Dark Horse's 2010 schedule, continues his mining of classic Gold Key concepts with these reinvention of the Silver Age series that harkens back to *Stephen Vincent Benet's* classic short story "By the Waters of Babylon."

OCCULTIST #1

Tim Seeley (W); Victor Drujiniu & Jason Gorder (A)
(Dark Horse OCT100011 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

A young man's lackluster life changes in remarkable ways when a mysterious book of powerful spells binds itself to him—but if he hopes to survive the experience, he must learn to control the book's immense power, even if it means letting his own life continue to unravel.

Why Should You Care?

Tim Seeley blends equal parts humor, horror, and heroism in this engaging fantasy adventure.

ROBERT E HOWARD'S SAVAGE SWORD #1

Marc Andreyko, Mark Finn, Roy Thomas, & Paul Tobin (W); Tim Bradstreet, Robert Atkins, Tim Conrad, Barry Windsor-Smith (A)
(Dark Horse OCT100025 $7.99)

What's the Scoop?

Dark Horse spotlights the full range of *Robert E. Howard's* imaginative creations in this 80-page anthology that will feature not only Conan and Solomon Kane, but also lesser known creations such as Dark Agnes, El Borak, Bran Mak Morn and Sailor Steve Costigan.

Why Should You Care?

This hefty first issue combines a trio of new tales with a remastered and recolored version of *Roy Thomas, Tim Conrad, & Barry Windsor-Smith's* acclaimed ***Savage Sword of Conan*** epic "Worms of the Earth."

STAN LEE'S STARBORN #1

Stan Lee & Chris Roberson (W); Khary Randolph (A)
(Boom OCT100875 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

A failed fantasy/science fiction author discovers that his rejected tales weren't fiction at all—instead, they're repressed memories of his own home planet! He's forced to confront those buried memories, however, when he finds himself at the center of a galactic war!

Why Should You Care?

Boom's first two *Stan Lee* projects, ***Soldier Zero*** and ***Traveler***, are proof positive that this comic book legend still has what it takes to produce top-notch comic book adventure, and ***Starborn*** stands right alongside them as prime examples of Lee at his best!

WHAT IF? 200

Marc Guggenheim & Stan Lee (W); Dave Wilkins & Dale Eaglesham (A)
(Marvel OCT100635 $4.99)

WHAT IF? DARK REIGN

Jason Henderson (W); Sana Takeda (A)
(Marvel OCT100636 $3.99)

WHAT IF? IRON MAN: DEMON IN AN ARMOR

Bob Layton & David Michelinie (W); Graham Nolan (A)
(Marvel OCT100639 $3.99)

WHAT IF? SPIDER-MAN

Mark Sable (W); Paul Azaceta (A)
(Marvel OCT100638 $3.99)

WHAT IF? WOLVERINE: FATHER

Rob Williams (W); Greg Tocchini (A)
(Marvel OCT100637 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

What if the Watcher eliminated Galactus? What if Hawkeye killed Norman Osborn and circumvented Dark Reign? What if Tony Stark and Doctor Doom had changed identities? What if Spider-Man were willing to kill? And what if Logan had been a good father to his son Daken? Yep, it's December, and that means it's time for weekly ***What Ifs***?

Why Should You Care?

Marvel plays "let's remake history," giving their creators carte blanche to explore some of the most outrageous and unexpected plot twists possible—and since it's all alternate-reality, *anything* can happen!

I HAVE EXISTED ALONE IN DARKNESS...
BUT NOW, I SHALL HAVE A QUEEN.
I TOLD YOU, MISTER--I'M ALREADY MARRIED.
NO MATTER. THE QUEEN I WANT--
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER
--IS THE LOVELY LADY KNOWN AS MAY PARKER!
!
©2010 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

Check 'Em Out:
Books You *Should* Be Reading

ACTION COMICS ANNUAL #13
(DC OCT100197 $4.99)

Paul Cornell presents two formative encounters from Lex Luthor's younger days: one involving Darkseid, the other involving Ra's al Ghul.

AVENGERS #8
(Marvel OCT100570 $3.99)

The Illuminati return! Marvel's super-secret brain trust has reunited because *someone* is trying to put the Infinity Gauntlet back together...

BATMAN ANNUAL #28
(DC OCT100179 $4.99)

DETECTIVE COMICS ANNUAL #12
(DC OCT100178 $4.99)

A Batman, Inc. recruitment trip turns into an international incident as The Dark Knight encounters a string of bizarre murders in Paris, all linked to a strange cult leader. This two-part ***Batman, Inc.*** tie-in tale runs through both annuals.

DCU HOLIDAY SPECIAL 2010 #1
(DC OCT100235 $4.99)

DC continues their Christmas celebration tradition holiday-themed short tales featuring Superman, the Spectre, the Legion, Green Lantern John Stewart, Jonah Hex, and Anthro.

FREEWAY GN
(Fantagraphics OCT101012 $28.99)

Mark Kalesniko tells the story of an animator, stuck in a traffic jam on his way to his job at 'Mickey Walt' Studios, who rages, reminisces, fantasizes and hallucinates about his early days as a starry-eyed animator soon disillusioned by the dismal reality of the animation world.

LADY MECHANIKA #1
(Aspen OCT100798 $2.99)

Joe Benitez presents the story of the survivor of a serial killer whose damaged body has been rebuilt with mechanical components.

LIFE WITH ARCHIE: MARRIED LIFE #5
(Archie SEP100792 $3.99)

LIFE WITH ARCHIE: THE MARRIED LIFE #6
(Archie OCT100783 $3.99)

This is the Archie book for older readers ready for something beyond typical high school misadventure. Love, loss, heartbreak, sorrow, death, betrayal—it's all here in each issue's two tales, one exploring a reality in which Archie married Betty, the other a reality in which Archie married Veronica. This is the Archie book targeted at all of us who grew up reading classic Archie and are now ready for the characters to grow up with us!

OZ/WONDERLAND KIDS #1 (OF 3)
(BuyMeToys OCT100915 $2.99)

Dorothy and Toto find themselves in Wonderland, where they meet Alice and her group of crazy "friends" in this all-new series from the creator of ***The Oz/Wonderland Chronicles.***

RAISE THE DEAD II #1
(Dynamite OCT100933 $3.99)

Leah Moore & John Reppion continue the zombie saga, joined by scripter *Mike Raicht* and artist *Guiu Vilanova*. As you might expect, the zombies are still on the prowl, terrorizing the few surviving humans in the best zombie series since ***Walking Dead.***

ROCKET MAN #1: KING OF THE ROCKETMEN
(Moonstone OCT101068 $3.99)

The original jetpack-wearing rocket-powered hero is back! *James Kuhoric, Shannon Denton, & Hannibal King* revamp the classic Rocket Man for a new generation. With the original dead, the secret of the rocket suit in jeopardy, and ruthless criminals closing in on the scientist behind the technology, a young man must make the choice between a life of crime and the selfless sacrifice of a hero.

TIME MASTERS: VANISHING POINT #6 (OF 6)
(DC OCT100236 $3.99)

Dan Jurgens ends his epic time-travel saga with a real bang... and a finale that links to the upcoming mega-event ***FlashPoint.*** Finding Bruce Wayne seems like a trivial pursuit compared to the horrors that the Time Masters stumble upon concerning 2011 and the entire DC Universe! Just how far has Reverse-Flash gone this time in his manipulations of the time-stream?

WOLVERINE: THE BEST THERE IS #1
(Marvel OCT100643 $3.99)

What happens when Wolverine faces an opponent who becomes a much bigger problem if he's killed? Enter Contagion, a bold new addition to Wolverine's rogue's gallery;

FYI: Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

ALTER EGO #98
(TwoMorrows OCT101216 $7.95)

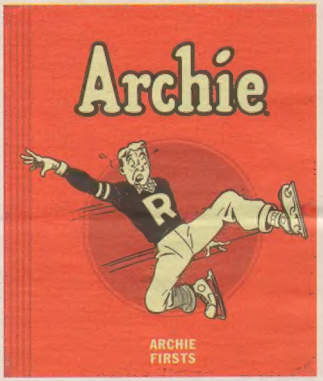
Superman takes the spotlight in this issue, which includes pieces on editors *Whitney Ellsworth* and *Mort Weisinger*, writer *Alvin Schwartz*, and artists *Joe Shuster, Wayne Boring, Curt Swan, Al Plastino, & Neal Adams.*

ART OF TODD MCFARLANE: DEVIL'S IN THE DETAILS HC
(Image OCT100465 $64.99)

This oversized hardcover book spotlights the art of *Todd McFarlane*, including original comic art, never-before-seen sketches, design art, and oodles of commentary from Todd himself!

GOTHAM CITY: 14 MILES—ESSAYS ON 1960S BATMAN TV SC
(SequArt OCT101262 $22.95)

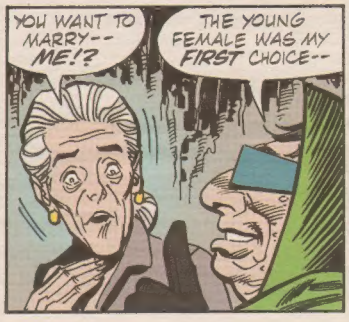
This collection of essays on the fondly-remembered ABC TV series includes insightful pieces by *Chuck Dixon, Paul Kupperberg, and Robert Greenberger, Peter Sanderson, Will Murray, Timothy Callahan,* and *Jeff Rovin*, among others.

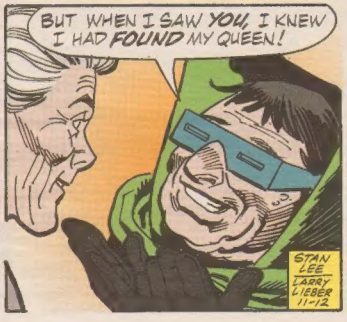


Collected Cool:
December's Best Reprint Volumes

ARCHIE FIRSTS HC VOL 1
(Dark Horse AUG100068 $24.99)

This hardcover lives up to its name, collecting the first Archie story from ***Pep Comics #1,*** all of the Archie stories from ***Archie #1,*** all the Betty and Veronica stories from ***Betty and Veronica #1,*** the first Reggie story from ***Jackpot Comics #5,*** all the Reggie stories from ***Reggie #1,*** and all the Jughead stories from ***Jughead #1.***





I SHOULD BE HAPPY TO BE "JILTED" BY THE MOLE MAN...
BUT NOW WHAT HAPPENS TO POOR AUNT MAY?
©2010 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

FLASH GORDON COMIC BOOK ARCHIVES HC VOL 2

(Dark Horse AUG100064 $49.99)

The comprehensive reprinting of classic ***Flash Gordon*** tales continues with this volume compiling King Comics' ***Flash Gordon #s 1-11*** and more.

MARVEL MASTERWORKS: GOLDEN AGE MARVEL COMICS HC VOL 5

(Marvel JUN100650 $59.99)

Marvel's march through the Golden Age continues with this book collecting ***Marvel Mystery #s 17-20***, featuring work by *Simon & Kirby, Bill Everett, Carl Burgos,* and many others.

MIGHTY THOR OMNIBUS HC VOL 1

(Marvel JUL100662 $99.99)

Experience the earliest days of the god of thunder once again with this heaping helping of Thor tales from ***Journey Into Mystery #s 83-120 & Thor Annual #1***.

MOUSE GUARD HC VOL 2: WINTER 1152 LIMITED B&W ED

(Archaia OCT100773 $149.95)

Enjoy *David Petersen's* art at its finest with this special 12" x 12" black and white edition of the second ***Mouse Guard*** volume, limited to only one thousand slipcased copies.

REID FLEMING, WORLDS TOUGHEST MILKMAN HC VOL 1

(IDW OCT100434 $29.99)

Meet the most curmudgeonly dairy delivery guy in comics history in the first of two volumes collecting *David Boswell's* hilarious anti-hero.

SHOWCASE PRESENTS OUR ARMY AT WAR TP VOL 1

(DC SEP100255 $19.99)

DC takes readers back to the pre-Silver Age with this collection of pre-Rock stories from ***Our Army at War #s 1-20***, featuring work by *Robert Kanigher, Carmine Infantino, Gil Kane, Mort Drucker, Irv Novick, Bernie Krigstein, Jerry Grandenetti, Gene Colan, Ross Andru, Mike Esposito, Fred Ray,* and many others.

Hot Commodities:
December's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

BATMAN (JUSTICE) 1/6 SCALE COLLECTOR FIGURE

(DC Direct MAY100314 $99.99)

This detailed 13" action figure based on the best-selling twelve-issue comics series by *Alex Ross*, extensively modified to match Ross's vision of the Dark Knight.

COVER GIRLS OF THE DCU POKER SET

(DC Direct MAR100355 $199.00)

This unique poker set includes two standard 4-color, 4-suit, 54-card decks featuring both covers painted by *Adam Hughes* and original art by Hughes created for DC Direct for the DC Universe Cover Girls statues, as well as 300 11.5 gram, clay poker chips with 4-color art in red, gold, purple and blue, packaged in a deluxe, locked metal carrying case.

DC UNIVERSE ONLINE STATUE: GREEN LANTERN

(DC Direct MAY100310 $80.00)

DC UNIVERSE ONLINE STATUE: SUPERMAN

(DC Direct MAY100311 $80.00)

These statues are the first in a series of 7" tal sculptures based on Jim Lee's design art for the DC Universe MMORPG.

JLA TROPHY ROOM: SINESTRO BATTERY PROP REPLICA

(DC Direct MAR100354 $350.00)

The Sinestro Power Battery Prop Replica resin sculpture is 11.5" high x 7.25' wide x 10' deep and includes a yellow ring. Amazing powers and abilities not included, of course...

KITTY PRYDE STATUE

(Bowen JUN101614 $175.00)

Sculptor *Roberto Von Behr* captures Kitty, along with her otherdimensional pet dragon Lockheed, in this 13" tall statue.

SABRETOOTH CLASSIC STATUE

(Bowen JUN101615 $245.00)

Wolverine's most savage, feral adversary is captured by Mark Newman in this 12" tall sculpture.

twitter.com/csnsider

©2010 Marvel Characters, Inc
All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

Follow *Spider-Man* every week in *Comic Shop News*!